



COVID-19 Information for School Health Personnel

Mode of Transmission

COVID-19 viruses are primarily spread from person to person by “droplets.” This happens when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air and deposited on the mouth, nose or eyes of people nearby. They can also be inhaled by people who are in close contact with one another.

Length of Infectiousness

Current guidance around defining for how long a person is infectious continues to evolve as we learn more about the nuances of COVID-19. The two most common scenarios are listed below:

- ☐ **For people with symptoms:** the contagious period is considered to be 2 days before through 10 days after symptom onset.
- ☐ **For people without symptoms:** the contagious period is considered to be 2 days before the date the first specimen was taken that tested positive through 10 days after.

For cases with severe illness or who are severely immunocompromised, refer to the “[Ending isolation and quarantine section](#)” of the Case and Contact Investigation for isolation guidance.

Key Terms

- ☐ **Isolation:** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- ☐ **Quarantine:** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.
- ☐ **Close contact:** within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 during their infectious period for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- ☐ **COVID-19 Outbreak:**
 - 2 or more case of laboratory positive (PCR or antigen test) among students or staff, AND
 - At least two or more cases have symptom onsets within a 14-day period of each other, AND
 - plausible epi-linkage* in the school, with no other known epi-linkage outside of the school (e.g. cases do not share a household, and no epi-linkage suggests transmission was more likely in other settings).

When to report to Clark County Public Health

Report all suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases associated with your facility to CCPH by faxing the [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) to the COVID Response Team at (564) 397- 8080.

Incubation Period

2-14, with a median of 5 days.

Symptoms:

Typically may include:

- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Children typically experience mild symptoms

Symptoms may persist for months for some cases. An estimated 25-40% of people who are infected will have no symptoms.

Diagnosis

The two main test types:

- **Molecular test:** typically, highly accurate and usually does not need to be repeated.
- **Antigen test:** Positive results are usually highly accurate, but false positives can happen, especially in areas where very few people have the virus. Negative results may need to be confirmed with a molecular test.



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We recommend schools have policies and procedures in place for:

- ☐ Implementing a parent notification system following an exposure.
- ☐ Notification to staff, students and volunteers of their exclusion.
- ☐ Tracking staff, student and volunteer exclusions due to testing positive for COVID-19 or being exposed to a lab confirmed COVID-19 case.
- ☐ Reporting lab confirmed COVID-19 cases to CCPH as you become aware of them.

What to do when you have a SINGLE exposure to COVID-19 in your school:

- ☐ Exclude any staff, student or volunteer who tests positive or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and has a known exposure (probable case) and utilize the [CCPH COVID-19 school report form](#) to report the case(s) to CCPH.
- ☐ Work with CCPH if needed to determine the case's infectious period and if an exposure occurred at the school.
- ☐ If the confirmed or probable case attended school during their infectious period, identify close contacts among staff and students using the following guidelines:
 - Practice physical distancing of at least 3 feet or more between students within groups
 - and in classrooms as much as possible.
 - Contact lasting an accumulated total time of >15 minutes and within 6 feet over 24 hours.
 - Lunch contacts within 6 feet for > 15 minutes.
 - Sports team or extracurricular contacts within 6 feet for > 15 minutes.
 - Transportation contacts within 6 feet for >15 minutes.
 - Free period, other teachers, or specialist contacts within 6 feet for > 15 minutes.
 - Other school staff – ask about meetings, break rooms, trainings, etc.

If you have questions regarding what criteria to use for considering someone a close contact, appropriate, please call CCPH at 564.397.8182, option 1 to reach the COVID Response Team.

- ☐ Exclude all identified close contacts and provide with a notification letter including Washington State Department of Health "What to do if you were potentially exposed to Someone with COVID-19."
- ☐ Track all excluded staff, students and volunteers who are currently in exclusion status to monitor when they can safely return to school.

What to do when you have a COVID-19 OUTBREAK in your school:

- ☐ Consult with the CCPH COVID-19 Response Team who will work with your school to determine appropriate next steps and need for additional control measures based on CDC, Washington Department of Health and/or Health Officer recommendations. Control measures will be determined on a case-by-case basis in response to that outbreak.
- ☐ Continue to exclude case(s) and contacts from school for the recommended isolation or quarantine period.
- ☐ Notify your facility licensor or certifier of an outbreak (if you have one).